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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1954

FOR THE

SOUTHWICK

URBAN DISTRICT

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health

THOMAS HERBERT HARRISON
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. D.T.M. & H.

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SOUTHWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

"Normanhurst",
16 Buckingham Road,
Shoreham-by-Sea.

June, 1955.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the Southwick Urban District for the year 1954.

As the causes of death amongst the infantile and adult population are eliminated, the main causes of death fall into two large groups, i.e. diseases of the heart and circulation, and cancer. This is a natural outcome of our successful attack on the infectious diseases. The child who escapes the hazards of infantile diarrhoea and the respiratory infections, and in adolescent and early adult life escapes the hazard of tuberculosis and rheumatic fever, stands a very great chance of falling a victim of a degenerative disease or cancer. The hardest worked system, and the first to break down when degenerative processes set in, is the heart and blood vascular system.

If medical science can discover a cure for cancer, or an effective means of preventing it, those saved from this disease will inevitably swell further the numbers in the cardio-vascular group. Of a total of 136 deaths, 87 were due to diseases of the heart and circulation, and 20 were due to cancer in various forms.

There was one case of diphtheria during the year. This occurred in a boy of five who had not been immunised against diphtheria. The source of the infection was never discovered. This case reminds us only too strongly that if we relax our precautions for a moment, this once dreaded disease will be back amongst us, taking its toll of our children. No child is safe unless he has been adequately immunised.

There were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease during the year. Whooping cough was again the most prevalent infectious disease, and is undoubtedly the most serious illness of young children. A considerable degree of protection can now be given by vaccinating babies against whooping cough. I strongly advise every mother to have her children protected against whooping cough at the same time as the diphtheria immunisation is given.

I should like to thank Dr. J. E. Jameson and his staff at the Brighton Public Health Laboratory for their most helpful co-operation. It is at this laboratory that all our water, milk and food samples are examined for purity, and Public Health bacteriological work is carried out. Like so many efficient silent services, we rather take this service for granted. There is no doubt that the Public Health Laboratory Service plays a vital part in the control of communicable disease.

I wish to thank the Chairman and the Members of the Public Health Committee for their wholehearted support, and especially I should like to thank Mr. Eardley for his help and co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. H. Harrison,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Southwick Urban District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(at 31st December, 1954)

Chairman: Councillor C. V. Whale

Vice-Chairman: Councillor R. W. Lean

Chairman of the Council: Councillor E. E. Thornton, J.P.

Councillor A. W. Lewis, J.P.
,, V. L. Miles
,, L. H. Smith
,, R. D. Voice

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

T. H. Harrison, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Sanitary Inspector .. T. A. Eardley, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

Duties: General duties of sanitary inspectors as laid down in the Sanitary Officers' Order including inspection of meat and other foods, housing, maintenance of sewers, refuse collection and disposal.

Chief Clerk .. .. F. S. Morley

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health: Miss J. Clegg.

Committees concerned with Public Health:
Public Health Committee,
Housing Committee.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Southwick is a small urban area on the south coast, situated four miles west of Brighton.

The eastern arm of Shoreham Harbour, known locally as "The Canal" flowing eastwards, forms the southern boundary of the district. On the strip of land south of the Canal are situated the Electricity Works of the British Electricity Authority and the Works of the South-Eastern Gas Board. The sheltered water of the Canal is used as a harbour by sundry private yachts.

The chief industries in the town are electricity production, dyeing, market gardening and sheet metal work. Some fishing is still carried on, but does not amount to a major industry.

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1954

Area in acres	1,103
Registrar General's estimate of resident population ..	11,010
Population (Census, 1951)	10,718
Rateable Value	£101,539
Sum represented by a penny rate	£406
Number of inhabited houses end of 1954 according to Rate Book	3,784

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live Births	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	69	72	141
Illegitimate	3	6	9
	72	78	150

Rate per 1,000 estimated home population	13.6
Corrected Birth Rate after allowance is made for the age and sex composition of the local population as compared with the national population ..	15.5

Still Births	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	2	2

Rate per 1,000 of total (live and still) births ..	26

Deaths (Males 68, Females 68) 136

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated home population 12.4

Corrected Death Rate 9.5

(This is the death rate of the District after allowance has been made for the age and sex composition of the local population as compared with the national population. The Corrected Death Rate is a figure which permits a more accurate comparison to be made between the figures in different areas.)

Number of Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate..	5	—	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births.. .. .. .. 33.3

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. 35

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. Nil

Deaths from Cancer, all ages 20

Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .. .. Nil

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS, 1954.

	England and Wales	West Sussex Urban	West Sussex Rural	Southwick U.D.
Birth Rate	15.2	12.3	15.4	13.6
Death Rate	11.3	15.5	11.7	12.4
Infantile Death Rate ..	25.5	26	22	32
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.16	0.17	0.08	Nil
Cancer Death Rate ..	2.04	2.80	2.30	1.9
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births ..	0.69	Nil.	0.38	Nil

DEATHS OCCURRING DURING THE YEAR 1954

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Other	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	1	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ..	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1	5
Malignant Neoplasm, breast ..	—	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.. ..	—	2	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	5	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	1
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	8	15	23
Coronary Disease, Angina	11	8	19
Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	4	2	6
Other Heart Disease	14	16	30
Other Circulatory Disease	7	2	9
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Bronchitis	2	—	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	2	1	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	5	11
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—	1
All other Accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	—	—	—
Homicide and Operation of War ..	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	68	68	136

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

The following infectious diseases are notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health:

Scarlet Fever

Whooping Cough

Diphtheria

Measles

Acute pneumonia (primary or influenzal)

Meningococcal infection

Acute poliomyelitis
paralytic
non-paralytic

Acute encephalitis
infective
post-infectious

Dysentery

Ophthalmia neonatorum

Puerperal pyrexia

Smallpox

Paratyphoid fevers

Enteric or typhoid fever

Food poisoning

Tuberculosis (all forms)

Erysipelas

Malaria

Cholera

Plague

Typhus fever

Relapsing fever

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1954.

	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 year	1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	15—24	25—44	45—64	65 and over	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	8	–	–	2	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Whooping Cough	51	3	12	7	24	2	2	1	–	–	–	–
Paralytic Poliomyelitis ..	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–
Measles ..	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
Diphtheria ..	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Pneumonia ..	13	–	1	–	–	–	2	1	5	4	–	4
Dysentery ..	5	–	–	–	1	–	–	3	1	–	–	–
Erysipelas ..	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–
Food Poisoning	2	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
Peurperal Pyrexia	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
Totals ..	86	4	13	10	32	2	4	9	7	5	2	4

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1954

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Und 1 yr.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1– 4 ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5–14 ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15–24 ..	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
25–34 ..	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
35–44 ..	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–
45–54 ..	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	–
55–64 ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
65 & over	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals ..	7	3	3	–	–	–	–	–

FOOD POISONING

Two cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, these being of the salmonella typhi-murium type. Duck-eggs are thought to have been the source.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

One case of Diphtheria was notified during the year. Immunisation has again been carried out by the County Council, and at the end of the year the position was as follows:—

Total number of children immunised:

Under 5 years of age	99
5—14 years of age	33
Who received a third reinforcing dose ..	171

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172, PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action has had to be taken by the Council under these powers during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47

It was once found necessary for action to be taken under this section for the removal to suitable premises of a person in need of care and attention.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Since the National Health Service Act came into force on July 5th, 1948, the following services are the responsibility of the Local Health Authority, which is the West Sussex County Council:

Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care
The Care of Mothers and Young Children
Ambulance and Hospital Car Service
Immunisation against Diphtheria
Vaccination against Smallpox
Domiciliary Midwifery
Health Visiting
Mental Health
Home Nursing
Home Help.

HOSPITAL AND SPECIALIST SERVICES

A comprehensive hospital and specialist service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board. Doctors can arrange whatever forms of treatment are needed for their patients in general or special hospitals, whether as in-patients or out-patients. Hospital accommodation of a private nature is available in certain circumstances subject to appropriate charges. All types of cases are thus provided for—medical, surgical, maternity, infectious diseases, and those requiring sanatorium or mental hospital treatment.

The Worthing Group Hospitals comprise: Worthing, Southlands, Swandean, Littlehampton and Arundel Hospitals; Zachary Merton Maternity Home, Rustington and certain Convalescent Homes.

GENERAL MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES

Everyone is entitled as part of the arrangements for the National Health Service to general medical and dental care. Local arrangements for these services are organised through the National Health Service, Executive Council for West Sussex, 63 South Street, Chichester.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Acting as agents for the County Council, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society operate the Ambulance and Hospital Car Service in the County. Calls for an ambulance are made through the doctor or nurse in attendance on the case, or through the Police or public in case of accidents or other emergencies.

NURSING

General District Nurses, Midwives, Health Visitors and School Nurses are employed by the County Council to serve in the area. Lists showing names and addresses of these nurses may be seen at County Libraries, Town Halls, or Offices of local District Councils, and the Public Health Department, County Hall, Chichester.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Infant Welfare Centre	Social Club, The Twitton, Southwick.	Tues. & Thurs. 2.0—4.0 p.m.
Clinics:		
Ante-Natal	Community Centre, Southwick Street, Southwick.	Fortnightly Friday 2.30—4.0 p.m.
School Clinic	Health Centre, Middle Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.	Monthly, Monday (By appointment only through Health Visitor)
Orthopaedic	Lancing Health Centre, Irene Avenue, Lancing.	By appointment, only, through the Health Visitor
Eye Clinic	Health Centre, Middle Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.	By appointment through the Health Visitor
Speech Therapy	Health Centre, Middle Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.	By appointment through the Health Visitor
Dental	Health Centre, Middle Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.	By appointment

The following clinics are administered by the Regional Hospital Board:

Tuberculosis	Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea.	Wednesday (By appointment)
Venereal Disease	Worthing Hospital, Worthing.	**Males:** Wednesday 5.30—6.30 p.m. Friday 4.30—5.30 p.m. **Females:** Wednesday 3.0—5.0 p.m. Friday 2.0—4.0 p.m.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

There is an abundant and constant supply of pure water from the Brighton Corporation. All dwelling-houses have a piped supply laid on. There are no stand pipes in this area.

The water is not liable to have plumbo solvent action.

One sample of water was sent for bacteriological examination during the year.

Extension of Mains during the year:—

	Length (Yds.)	Diameter (ins.)
Greenfield Close ..	141	3
Glebe Close	160	3
Downs Estate	1,782	4
	2,083	

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) **House Refuse**

The tip was sprayed at regular intervals during the year with Gammexane, and the refuse collection vehicles were sprayed with insecticide whilst loading was in operation.

(b) **Sewers**

No extensions of existing sewers were made during the year.

(c) **Cesspools**

There are no cesspools in the district.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

It has not been necessary to take any action to check the pollution of rivers or streams.

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1954

During the year the Local Authority erected 45 houses. Twenty-three houses were erected by private enterprise.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 139

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 974

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 69

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.. 104

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. Nil

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 69

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 58

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

No action was taken under Statutory Powers during the year.

4. Housing Acts 1936 and 1949, Overcrowding:

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 1

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 2

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 6

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 2

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. 14

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .. .. Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

Number of Dairymen (Cowkeepers and Milksellers), etc. ..	15
Number of these registered as Wholesalers only	Nil
Number of these registered as Retailers only..	14
Number of these registered as both Wholesalers and Retailers	1
Number of inspections of milk shops	100

All the above premises are supplied from the public water mains.

Licences

Number of licences granted by the Local Authority:	
To pasteurise milk	1
To retail milk using the designation:	
(a) Tuberculin Tested Milk	6
(b) Pasteurised Milk	10

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

Number of samples of Pasteurised milk taken during the year	126
Number complying with prescribed test	99

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Butchers' meat condemned as unfit for human consumption	212 lbs.
Number of Butchers' Shops	9
Number of inspections of Butchers' Shops	89
Number of fried and wet fish shops	4
Number of inspections of fried and wet fish shops ..	21
Number of Catering Establishments	12
Number of inspections made	42
Number of Bakehouses	Nil
Number of premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (excepting ice cream premises)	9
Number of inspections made	89
Number of other food premises in the district	56
Number of inspections made	49

A survey and report as to the conditions of the twelve catering establishments was carried out with reference to the Food Bye-laws adopted by the Council during the year.

Condemned foodstuffs are surrendered voluntarily for disposal through the appropriate channels or for destruction by the Local

Authority. The following were found to be unfit for human consumption:—

Cod	13 stone	Peaches	4 tins
Skate	3 ,,	Jam	4 ,,
Huss	2 ,,	Pineapple	3 ,,
Bacon	4 lbs.	Soft Roes	3 ,,
Kippers	2 boxes	Plums	2 ,,
Fish Paste ..	6 jars	Quinces	2 ,,
Peas	28 tins	Marmalade ..	2 ,,
Milk	23 ,,	Pilchards	1 tin
Blackcurrants ..	13 ,,	Sardines	1 ,,
Beans	10 ,,	Sandwich Spread..	1 ,,
Anchovy Paste ..	8 ,,	Veal & Ham Loaf	1 ,,
Luncheon Meat..	8 ,,	Stewed Steak ..	1 ,,
Tomatoes ..	6 ,,	Salmon	1 ,,
Beef and Gravy..	4 ,,	Jellied Veal ..	1 ,,
Apricots	4 ,,		

ICE CREAM

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the area. Ice cream is supplied pre-packed or in tins for sale from conservators in suitable shop premises. There is one large storage depot in the area for wholesale disposal of ice cream (Eldorado) to retailers.

Sampling is carried out during the summer months, samples being submitted to the Brighton Public Health Laboratory for examination.

Number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream	30
Number of inspections made..	34

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority ..	33	94	–
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	15	37	–
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).. ..	2	5	–
Total	50	136	–

No defects were found as a result of inspections.

There are 29 outworkers in the district.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Number of shops in the district	156
Number of inspections made	205
Number of Defects found:	
(a) Ventilation	Nil
(b) Warming	Nil
(c) Sanitary Defects	3

The defects were remedied.

No applications were made under Section 38 (2) for exemption.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

Number of inspections made	2
Number of complaints received	Nil
Number of contraventions observed ..	Nil

CAMPING SITES

Number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during the year	1
Estimated number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season	100

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

All complaints of rat and mice infestation received during the year have been investigated. The Council employ a part-time Rodent Operator who has dealt with infestations on private and business premises. No charge has been made for privately owned dwellings. Treatment used in infestations was that recommended by the Ministry of Food, the P.3 trap together with poison bait.

MOSQUITOES

No complaints have been received in respect of mosquitoes.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

One Council house and six other houses were found to be infested with bed bugs. Disinfestation was carried out by the use of sulphur dioxide, thermatox and spraying with roxem. No house has been disinfested by hydrogen cyanide.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Number of observations made	31
Number of notices served	Nil

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Number of premises in the district in which rag flock is manufactured, sold or used	2
Number of inspections made..	9
Number of premises requiring action to be taken..	Nil

SCHOOLS

There are four Primary Schools and one Secondary School in the district. All have the public water supply and water closet sanitation.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORKS AND IMPROVEMENTS

UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS

Number of inspections in regard to Infectious Disease	100
Number of premises disinfected after Infectious Disease	23
Number of verminous premises disinfested ..	7
Number of nuisances found to exist	69
Number of nuisances abated..	58
Number of ashbins provided	34
Total number of inspections made for all purposes	2,235
Total number of notices served:	
Informal	199
Statutory	3
Total number of summonses issued..	Nil
Complaints received	69
Complaints found justified and dealt with	58